TL 871

De: Paulino Gama
Para: Dr. Luis Sebastião Pereira
CDPM - Lisboa

To: The United States Congress.

Recognition and thanks:

Revision of position, repudiation and condemnation of the atrocities committed in East Timor by the Indonesian armed forces.

Honoured members of the United States Congress:

1. We, the Timorese refugees in Portugal, are immensely grateful for the position taken by the United States Congressmen, due to their revision of the United States position on the question of East Timor, with regard to the Indonesian military occupation and the constant violations of human rights throughout these 15 years.

2. The political position of the 233 United States Congressmen in relation to our land and our martyred people is a significant step of great moral and political importance, that will contribute decisively to East Timor's self-determination and independence.

3. Considering that the fundamental principles guiding the United States of America's fight for independence were the same as those which have now driven and guided the Timorese people in these 15 years of armed and political resistance:

a. We ask Congress to intercede, together with the Administration, to condemn Indonesia unequivocally, clearly and firmly, with regard to its illegal and illegitimate occupation of East Timor and its disrespect for the right to self-determination and independence, and the constant violations of the fundamental rights of the people of East Timor.

b. Just as the USA is in solidarity with the people of Kuwait, as they try to regain their liberty and independence, we, the Timorese people, have faith that the same action will come, sooner or later, to contribute in the same way to the resolution of our question, which arose more than 15 years ago; so that it might be translated into our self-determination and independence.

Lisbon, 5.12.90.

In the name of all the Timorese refugees.

Paulino Gama (Mauk Moruk)
guerilla commander in East Timor, recently arrived in Portugal.